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## DISCONTENT OVER DEFECTIVE DRILLS; NEW USSR COAL-MINING EQUIPMENT

BREAKDOWNS LEAVE MINERS SHORT OF TOOLS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 24 Jan 53

The following are comments from a letter to the editor by a section chief, a machinist, two foremen, and five development miners, all of the Kizelugol' Trust.

Hammer drills produced by the Leningrad Pnevmatika Plant are used in mines of the Kizel Basin. These drills are easy to handle, and are productive as well. Recently produced drills, however, are proving to be of poor quality, and frequently break down, so that some of the mine faces are short of drills.

Ten new drills, received from the Pnevmatika Plant in November and December 1952, all broke down during the first shift of their use, one of them stopping after only 30 minutes of operation.

Although the striker of a properly built hammer drill should be made of harder steel than is the drill proper, the plant is not observing this principle in its manufacture of hammer drills. As a result, the strikers become chipped or crushed, and cease to function. The pistons are made of such soft metal that they become compressed, and stick in the cylinders. In some hammer drills, the cylinders are improperly ground. One hammer drill was recently run-in for 2 days, in order to grind the cylinder to the required smoothness before putting the machine to work at the mine face.

In view of the above incidents, miners of the Kizel Basin demand that the Leningrad Pnevmatika Plant improve the quality of its hammer drills, and guard against the release of faulty products.

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PUT TUNNELERS INTO OPERATION -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 1 Mar 53

Several of the new ShBM-1-U development combines, produced by the Kopeysk Plant imeni Kirov, are now in operation at a mine of the Stalinugol' Combine. In general form, the machine resembles a huge drilling unit laid on its side, a metal disk 3 meters in diameter mounted at the front serving as the "bit." As the machine moves ahead, cutting out a tunnel, it leaves the walls as smooth as if they had been polished. It can turn under its own power to change the direction of advance.

The ShBM-1-U was developed by Stalin Prize winner A. A. Mogilevskiy and engineers A. I. Loseviy and S. E. Balaganskiy.

Moscow, Pravda, 30 May 53

The ShBM development combine built by the Kopeysk Plant imeni Kirov advances in a "walking" movement: the drill part is advanced 0.7 meter into the ground while the main body of the machine remains fast; then, by means of hydraulic jacks, the body moves itself forward on skids. The process is repeated at each advance of 0.7 meter.

The machine has made a total advance of 7-8 meters in one day.

GET FLANS FOR IMPROVED COMBINES -- Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 12 Apr 53

The Gorlovka Plant imeni Kirov has received plans for two Donbass combines of improved design.

The plant is striving to complete the new machines ahead of schedule, and to reduce the production cycle for series-produced machines. Each machine is now turned out in nearly one half the time it took 4 years ago.

PRODUCE REDUCTION UNITS -- Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 4 Jan 53

The Stalino Plant imeni 15-letiye Komsomola has begun to produce heavy reduction units for mine hoists.

TEST CONVEYER -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 16 Jan 53

The Aleksandrovskiy Machine Building Plant imeni Voroshilov, Molotovskaya Oblast, has built and tested a new 200-meter belt conveyer for use in coal mines.

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